

*Proceedings on Adjournment Motion*

It then continues:

But the evidence is that de Gaulle's intention is to make this body a major instrument for the advancement of French cultural politics.

Later in the article it is stated:

The two main resolutions to pass called for the creation of an "international agency for cultural co-operation" among French speaking nations and "regions" and for a common front by French speaking governments in next year's international negotiations on control of telecommunications satellites.

Both are matters of manifest concern to countries in whole or part French speaking.

The third and most important quote comes from the French press and was aired over the French networks on October 9 at 6 p.m. and again at 11 p.m. The text of this article, as translated, is as follows:

A delegation of the Canadian government composed of personnel specialized in questions of equipping satellites is expected in France on October 15 according to authorized Canadian sources (sources canadiens autorisés). Composed of 7 members... In informed circles, special interest is taken in this announcement at a time when Canada has recently submitted to France a detailed proposition of co-operation in the field of space research.

This proposition, Canadian sources report, was given by Mr. Mitchell Sharp, Secretary of State for External Affairs, to Mr. Michel Debré, foreign affairs minister, at the time of the interview they held last week end in New York at the United Nations.

I do not want to exacerbate the minister's difficulty, but I should like to caution him about secrecy. There should be some indication of Canada's actions in respect of this and we should have learned something regarding the NORAD role which was renewed without parliamentary discussions.

Let us not have any further contributions to the public disquiet in this very sensitive field. If these people are leaving for France, where are they? Are they technicians? Are they experts in intercommunication? Are they in electronics, and are they from one or several departments? What is the purpose of their visit, and what are their terms of reference? In what other countries have proposals been made for co-operation in this telecommunications field? What liaison has there been with provincial governments which have revealed both an interest and expertise in this highly complex but tremendously important field?

Surely we all realize that there is a tremendous public interest in what Canada is doing abroad this day, this week and a week from now? It should not be difficult to realize the sensitivity of the interests of the Canadian public. We would like to know what governments are doing, and what commitments are being made. How ironic it is that on the very issue of rapid electronic communications advances the government should be so uncommunicative. I ask that in respect of this tremendously important matter the government should communicate.

**Hon. Donald S. Macdonald (President of the Privy Council):** Mr. Speaker, my response is really one of procedure rather than of substance. The hon. member knows that the Secretary of State for External Affairs (Mr. Sharp) has taken an active part in these discussions. The hon. member has talked about other questions to which the minister has provided, answers, but the hon. member refuses to accept them. I would only say that if the hon. member had really been seeking information, I presume he would have been agreeable to putting this over until Tuesday. I regret that he did not have the courtesy to do so.

● (10:20 p.m.)

**Mr. Macquarrie:** Mr. Speaker, may I, on a question of privilege, refute the implications of poor manners and remind the hon. gentleman that just minutes ago the minister advised me of his predicament. He could easily have let me know before. And surely there are enough acting ministers and parliamentary secretaries to deal with this matter. I do not like this charge of poor manners.

**Mr. Macdonald (Rosedale):** Mr. Speaker, the hon. member knows very well that the minister was appearing before the committee.

**Mr. Macquarrie:** So was I.

**Mr. Speaker:** Order, please. I must remind the minister, as I have other hon. members in the past, that it is not according to the rules to impute improper motives.

Motion agreed to and the house adjourned at 10.23 p.m.